

Old Apostolic Lutheran Church of Battle Ground
20406 NE 176th Ave
Battle Ground Wa. 98604

October 26, 2023

To; Clark County Planning
Kathleen Otto, Karen Bowerman, Glun Yung, Michelle Belkot, Sue Marshall, Gary Medvigy &
Jose Alvarez.

I have been appointed to investigate the possibilities that may exist for the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church of Battle Ground to construct and operate its own private cemetery on our church property located at 20406 NE 176th Ave Battle Ground. Our property parcel number is: 986051248.

Most of our congregation currently uses and has used the Elim Cemetery in the past and it is filling up fast without much room for expansion, with its location on a narrow two lane road (NE 159th St between NE 133rd Ct. & NE 137th Ave) it is very unsafe for traffic entering & exiting the Cemetery. In the interests of convenience and no traffic issues to deal with, the idea of having our own cemetery next to our existing church and existing parking lot, has become quite attractive to us as the best solution. It seems that a church cemetery would be in the public interest for the entire community. However, our church parcel is in the AG comp plan and zoned AG-20, which as I understand outright prohibits cemeteries as an allowed use per Code.

Our specific question is: What are the mechanisms available to allow a private cemetery in the AG-20 zone? At this point, I have read up and believe I understand the Annual Review route where we would ask for a comp plan, and zone change. We are adjacent to R-5 zoning and it would not seem unreasonable that we could be changed to this. However, for the church's purposes we have no reason for wanting a zone change other than if it is the only way to accomplish a cemetery. With one of our other buildings located in Yacolt, the County recently did a policy amendment to allow a cemetery as a conditional use for an existing church building, is that something we could do on our property? If there is any other simpler method available, we would be very grateful to learn of it.

We are requesting a code amendment to allow a cemetery as a conditional use for our property.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Karl Rose

Secretary,

Old Apostolic Lutheran Church of Battle Ground